

The Times-Dispatch

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VIRGINIA'S GROWTH.

The population of the Commonwealth of Virginia was yesterday announced by the Census Bureau as 2,061,612, an increase of 11.2 per cent over the figure for 1900, which was 1,854,184. This is a fraction less than the per cent. of growth between 1890 and 1900, which was 12 per cent.

Many of the counties show a healthy increase in population, especially some of those in the Southwest. Other counties have practically remained at a standstill, while some have less population than they had ten years ago. Some that showed a falling off in 1900 as against the figure of 1890 have begun to regain the population contained twenty years ago.

The cities of Virginia, without exception, have increased in numbers at an encouraging rate. It is probable that the deficit in some of the counties is to be explained by the surplus in the cities. There has been a steady drift to the cities from the country districts in many of the States, and it is likely that this same movement has taken place in the Old Dominion.

The figures announced yesterday demonstrate, however, without argument that Virginia is striding onward, maintaining a steady rate of progress. The growth of the Old Dominion, in fact, has been, sure and not spasmodic.

BUILDING UP BIRMINGHAM.

The Hon. C. C. Egan, Mayor of Birmingham, Ala., is making a study of municipal problems on his own account, and, naturally, came to Richmond, the first city in the land, to learn how the thing should be done. He dropped in yesterday and dropped out last night, homeward-bound, with his mind filled with all sorts of ambitious plans for his town, a town which has gained immensely in wealth and population during the last decade, 25 per cent. being its increase of population, as officially stated by the census authorities. The people are there to show for it, even if one have to travel over a territory covering forty square miles to find them, and among them, as Mayor Egan explained on his recent visit to New York to a reporter for the Sun, there are more Yankees than can be found any day in New York. The population of Birmingham is something like 178,000—if the rest of the county of Jefferson had been taken into the city limits before the census was finished its population would be about 208,000.

Birmingham, however, is really one of the most progressive cities in the South—the census shows it. About ten years ago the bottom dropped out, but it has been restored, and, steel-lined and copper-fastened, it will stay now, whatever the convulsions in the financial world, and it is a town of which the South may well be proud. After spending a day in Richmond, Mayor Egan will be able to rub, on some of its rough edges and make his town behave like a real city. It is hoped that the waste room in the forty miles of territory will be so crowded with people by 1920 that the whole county will not be able to contain them. When we think that there are only 127,628 people living on eleven square miles in Richmond, we almost burst with admiration at the growth of Birmingham, with 135,000 crowded into a space nearly four times as great.

CARNEGIE AND HIS LIBRARIES.

Mayor W. D. Davis, of Dallas, does not believe in the Carnegie plan of founding public libraries. At a banquet of the Texas Stationary Engineers' Association in Fort Worth Thursday night he spoke of Mr. Carnegie as a "poor, misguided, multi-millionaire," said that only the well-to-do visit the libraries, and that the poor are compelled to hear the taxation due to their establishment. We do not think this criticism is altogether just, although it must be admitted that a great many communities have assumed a burden in accepting the gifts of Mr. Carnegie which they can ill afford to bear. Carried away with the idea that they were getting something for nothing, they have accepted the gift of several thousand dollars for the building of a Carnegie library, upon the condition that they would provide for its support forever. To accept a library building costing, say, \$10,000, the support of which will require the annual expenditure of not less than \$1,000, is not a good business proposition; but Mr. Carnegie is not to blame for this. On the contrary, he is very much to be thanked for his liberality.

The criticism of Mayor Davis, that only the well-to-do visit the libraries cannot be laid to the charge of the canny Scot; the libraries are open to all, rich and poor alike, under regulations which make no distinction between the classes and the masses. Indeed, the beneficent purpose of the Founder has been to place within the reach of the poor these institutions of enlightenment. The statement of the Mayor that the poor are compelled to

bear the taxation due to the establishment of these libraries hardly merits serious consideration, as the poor will obviously bear only their share of this taxation—that is to say, if the tax is not a head tax, but only a tax levied on what a man possesses.

The fact is, however, that many communities have built libraries with Mr. Carnegie's assistance without thinking of the continuing burden that they were assuming for their support; but Mr. Carnegie cannot be blamed for that. If the communities which have taken his gifts should fail to keep their part of the agreement, it would be interesting to know what Mr. Carnegie would do with a thousand or so library buildings thrown on his hands. We assume, however, that he has provided for such a contingency.

ORGANIC UNION AMONG THE METHODISTS.

There was a discussion in executive session by the joint committee on Methodist Federation in Baltimore on Thursday, looking to the organic union of the three great branches of Methodism, but no conclusion was reached except, as we understand, an agreement to disagree to the extent of each of the Methodist organizations preserving its own autonomy.

There was much difference of opinion at the conference. One of the speakers expressed the opinion that the existing divisions in the Church had really done much to preserve the Church. Among the difficulties of union, noted at the conference, was the lack of unity among the commissioners from the several denominations as to its advisability. Other differences related to the episcopacy and the limitation of the power of the bishops, and still further differences appeared as to the presence of negro members of the Methodist Episcopal Church (the Northern branch) in the General Conference. It was claimed that in members and material resources the Northern branch is more powerful than the other two denominations combined, and the fear was expressed that organic union would result in the absorption of all power by that division. There appears to have been one point, however, upon which all the commissioners agreed—closer relation in church affairs by which competition will be eliminated. This seems to us, is desirable from every point of view, and this point having been settled there would be no harm in continuing the divisions as they exist, for there would have to be administration of the affairs of the church, according to some sort of territorial division, and the present territorial division would, in fact, have to be continued in large measure with organic union as well as without organic union.

Speaking as an outsider, it appears to us that there is a fearful waste of money and effort in the business management, not only of the Methodist Church, but of all the churches. For example, there is the little town of Goshen, in this State, where there are three churches—Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian—all within a stone's throw of one another and hardly enough people in the place to make one good-sized congregation. Yet these three separate establishments are maintained. In a way, a working agreement having been reached, as we have been informed, of services in the several churches on alternate Sundays, so that the preacher on his date might have somebody to preach to. The chief advantage of this arrangement is that there is little room for doctrinal preaching, but it looks awfully overdone in Goshen.

The same condition of things exists in hundreds of other like communities all over the country. The material substance of the Church is wasted in over-production. At least, this is the view that is taken by some untrained people on the outside.

PINCHOT AND THE COLONEL.

There are "unutterable sorrows in nearly every human life—times when the lips move not, moments when the strongest and best wish with Cower "for a lodge in some vast wilderness, some boundless contiguity of shade, where rumor of oppression and deceit might never come. Since the 8th of November all ears have been turned to Oyster Bay for some word of explanation or comfort; but not a sound has emerged from that far-off region, and until yesterday, as spoken through the mouth of the Mergenthalers in the office of the faithful New York Tribune, no satisfying word has been uttered out of the dense and pathetic silence. It comes over us now like a peal of thunder from a clear sky that the silence is the silence of a breaking heart. Pinchot has dropped the Colonel; Pinchot has declared that the Colonel is "a base invertebrate"; Pinchot has driven the Mighty Hunter into the jungle at Sagamore Hill, because Pinchot intends himself to be President.

The story is that the Colonel fears Pinchot as "a dangerous rival" in the Convention of 1912; that the Colonel's administration as President "was wholly lacking in constructive features until Gifford Pinchot proposed the conservation policy, and that alone made success"; that "Gifford Pinchot made Theodore Roosevelt." It is further said that Pinchot "suspicioned" the Colonel when the Colonel "was an insurgent in the West and a Regular in the East"; when it appeared that the Colonel's "attitude on the tariff was wholly illogical"; when the Colonel discovered that "his willingness to support Senator Lodge was rankly inconsistent with his support of Senator Beveridge," and when, because of the Colonel's "jealousy and apprehension" at Pinchot's threatened candidacy for President, he refused to endorse his cause, and spoke at Sagamore of Mr. Taft as "an able, upright and distinguished President." It is alleged, moreover, that Pinchot was confirmed in his suspicions that the Colonel was not with him when he po-

litely received Ballinger on his recent visit to Washington. That was enough; that finished the Colonel with Pinchot, and all of these things together have influenced Pinchot to cut off the Colonel utterly from the congregation of the saints, or such is the story.

The Tribune reports that all Washington is laughing at Pinchot, but it is no laughing matter. There is a time to laugh and a time to refrain from laughing, and this is the time for sorrow. Think of the poor, forsaken figure at Oyster Bay and pity him, as all strong men must, that he has felt the steel of Pinchot's distrust, and that hereafter he must go through life without the support of the man who made him what he is. Is it any wonder that he has not spoken?

THREE GEORGES AT THE SAME TIME.

Dear brethren and sisters: The 22nd of February, 1911, will be one of the most notable days in the annals of these moving times, for on that day Colonel George Harvey, editor of Harper's Weekly, editor of the North American Review, head of the great publishing house of Harper & Brothers, author, publicist, thinker, orator and good fellow, will address the people of this town on the subject of a square deal for woman, under the auspices of the Equal Suffrage League of Richmond. There is a special appropriateness in the day and in the peculiar conjunction of names. There was George III., by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc., etc. Then there was George Washington, the greatest of the Georges, who salivated the King by winning the independence of the American colonies, now grown into our magnificent nation, and now comes George Harvey, by selection a member of the original Annapolis Club of the United States, to speak in this great Capital of the further extension of the right bequeathed to us by our fathers to engage in the pursuit of happiness.

We have not been advised as to the text which Colonel Harvey will select for his observations on this occasion, but, "by George" we know that it will be word hearing, for he touches no subject that he does not illuminate and makes no plea which he cannot sustain. Ample provision will be made for his entertainment by the noble Order, under the auspices of which he will speak, and after the League is through with him, if he is not "all in," an effort will be made to put him in touch with some of the men of Richmond with whom, and in behalf of his Cause, it will be regarded as wholly appropriate to the spirit of the occasion that will bring him here to "strike a blow for liberty," and "Freedom's battle once begun" in this wholly proper form, it may not be esteemed improper if circumstances shall serve to press the engagement.

Harvey is really one of the clearest thinkers and cleverest speakers we know. He is not wholly bound by conventionalities or ancient traditions, and while at times he seems out of touch with the accepted order of political thinking, he has always been able to give a reason for the faith that is in him, and in his informing discourse at Richmond on George Washington's birthday he will be sure to entertain, if he do not convince.

WHO DID IT?

According to the Chattanooga Times, Mr. Bryan and Mr. Hearst are arguing the question of "what influence in the past fourteen years of Democratic agitation was responsible for the recent landslide?" According to this Tennessee paper, "Mr. Bryan modestly leaves his readers to infer that it was his own, while Mr. Hearst says that it was the Hearst newspapers."

The Times notes that as Mr. Bryan was fighting the Democratic candidate for Governor of Nebraska and Mr. Hearst was fighting the Democratic candidate for Governor of New York when the landslide occurred, it might reasonably be inferred that neither of them had anything to do with it.

Of course, we shall express no opinion. The facts carry their own argument.

DIX.

Governor-Elect Dix of New York is severing his connection with all the banking and trust establishments with which he has been affiliated, so that when he goes into the office of Governor he will not be embarrassed in his work as Chief Executive of the State by any personal consideration. The more people know of Dix the larger he grows.

DIVISION OF CONTROL.

The Council Committee on Grounds and Buildings acted wisely in recommending to the Council the passage of the ordinance placing the City Hall janitors directly under the control of Building Inspector Beck. As Mr. Atkinson well said, it seems best that the cleaning force of the City Hall have but one boss—not twelve—and that with the committee in authority any discharged man could go up to his ward delegation and "have it fixed up." The Building Inspector is responsible for the building and should have authority to keep it in order.

It is not so much to this particular case, however, that we wish now to address ourselves, but to the fact that too often committee control of officers and matters under the committee is deleterious to the interests of the city. To make the head of a department responsible for the work done by his subordinates and then not to give him reasonable control over his subordinates is neither businesslike nor right. In order to accomplish the best results the head of the department should have such control, and ought not to be subjected to the influence of ward politics. So long as he performs his

duty, he ought not to be subject to the interference of a committee.

If any subordinate is aggrieved, he has the right of appeal. By eliminating appeals to committee, better discipline and better work is secured.

In the administration of the work of the city there ought to be no divided control. Division of authority is equivalent to waste. Subordinates ought to look to one superior and look to him only.

This is not only true of the department referred to, but of other city departments. The same rule should apply in the office of the City Engineer and in other offices. Claims of past political work for this or that member of the City Council should not be sufficient to reinstate a discharged city employee who was rightfully dismissed from the service for the good of the city.

DON'T DO IT, MR. MURPHY.

It is reported from New York that Mr. Murphy, the head of the Tammany organization, will not support Edward M. Shepard for United States Senator to succeed Dr. Depew, and it is further said that he will oppose Shepard's election. We hope the statement is unfounded. Mr. Murphy behaved wonderfully well at the Democratic Convention in Rochester and during the campaign which followed, and we trust that he will not spoil a good record now by opposing the election of Mr. Shepard, who would fill the office of Senator with great distinction to himself and much advantage to the State of New York. We do not know why Mr. Murphy should be opposed to him, but whatever the reasons, personal or partisan, the Tammany chieftain should forget them for the sake of the party, regarded wholly from the national point of view. A capable Democratic Senator from New York, such as Mr. Shepard would make, would be of advantage to Virginia, as well as to New York.

WAR ON THE HATPIN.

A crusade has begun in Philadelphia against the long hatpin, an ordinance having been introduced in the Councils providing that no person upon the public streets or in public conveyances shall be permitted to wear a hatpin the exposed point of which extends more than one-half an inch beyond the crown of the hat. A fine of \$50 for each and every offense is provided for in the proposed ordinance.

It is hoped that the ordinance will pass and that the reform will spread. The only safe hat for a woman to wear is a bonnet of the sunbonnet variety, which can be tied with strings under the chin, and in which a pretty face always looks artistic. The long hatpin is an invention of the devil, or of one of his agencies, the manufacturers of steel and brass wire, and should be suppressed without fear or favor.

HEALTHY GROWTH.

It was an encouraging statement that President Boatwright, of Richmond College, made on Thursday night concerning the growth of the institution over which he presides. There has been a falling off of matriculates, just as there has been at the University of Virginia and other colleges, and the same reason which applies in one case applies in all—the establishment of higher and more rigid entrance requirements. This is no cause for lamentation, for it means that the colleges are getting better men and better trained men, and not callow and immature youth, who have no place within the walls of a college.

Nevertheless, the total attendance of students at Richmond College this year is as high as it was at the highwater mark of last year. There are seventy-five men in the senior class, a most remarkable showing. There are more candidates for degrees and fewer special students than ever before.

The student body, according to President Boatwright, is better prepared for college work than at any previous time in the history of the college. This balances the loss in matriculation.

The facts simply indicate that the growth of Richmond College is sane, conservative, healthy, and that is the only sort of growth that can be depended upon to increase.

THE PASSING OF A SHRINE.

The old Masonic Hall at Williamsburg has been razed to the ground, according to the Virginia Gazette, of that city. By order of the lodge there, this historic building has been demolished, and crumbling wood and bricks are all that remain of it. "Even the chimneys have gone the way of things mutable," says the Gazette. "This building was spared as a monument to Masonry in America." In this sentiment we heartily agree.

It was in this ancient structure that the first Grand Lodge of Virginia was organized in 1778, and it was used for the sessions of the Grand Lodge until 1781, when the Grand Lodge was removed to Richmond. The hall had not been used as a lodge room and had fallen into decay. It was a relic of Colonial days.

So passes another of the historic structures of the Capital of Colonial Virginia.

THE EXPATRIATES.

One of the most noticeable things about the weekly newspapers of Virginia is the frequency with which they print letters from Virginians who are away from their home counties, resident in other States or traveling in distant places. Just this week there have been half a dozen or more from absent sons. In one batch of papers were noticed three such letters—one from Texas, another from Nevada, and a third from Colorado.

All these letters expressed a longing for the Old Dominion and a yearning for the good things which that term

embraces. While they may be carving their fortunes in other places, their hearts are still in Virginia. A correspondent of the Floyd Press, writing from Texas, says: "I still remain a Virginian in respect to my native home. He still takes his county paper, and, in fact, if statistics were compiled about expatriates who take their county papers, they would furnish a striking evidence of the loyalty of Virginians to their 'home' State."

The mystic chord of affection between the people of this Commonwealth and the land of their nativity is no common thing.

WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

Spoke a very sweet voice over the telephone yesterday morning into the receptive ear of the editor this problem: "I wish to ask you what may sound like a very silly question: In crossing a bridge does a dog cause greater vibration to the structure than a horse and buggy?"

There is nothing "silly" about it; it is only those of us who cannot answer the question that are silly. We should say that something would depend upon the size of the dog, the quality of its gait, the speed at which he is going and the strength of the bridge. By the same token, the vibration caused by the horse hitched to a buggy would depend in some degree at least upon the same physical conditions. There are dogs and dogs and horses and horses. Naturally, the poodle crossing a bridge would cause appreciably no vibration whatsoever, while the St. Bernard, with his great bulk and awkward gait, might shiver its timbers. The Shetland pony, drawing a basket phaeton, would cause practically no disturbance of the equilibrium of a bridge, while a horse of heavy weight and shambling gait might shake it to its foundations. Something would also depend on the plan upon which the bridge is built and the general strength of the structure.

Before making any thing like a definite answer to the inquiry of the lady, therefore, we should be compelled to know, first, the size of the dog and horse, the quality of their respective gaits, the speed at which they might be traveling, and the sort of bridge they are crossing; but we should know chiefly the rule in physics or pneumatics, or the thing in whatever branch of Science the subject touches, that would explain in a wholly satisfactory way the question which we must hold under advisement.

We would refer the inquirer, however, to the Hon. Charles Hopkins Clark, of the Hartford Courant, who answers all questions of the sort.

Much amusement has been afforded by some of our unsophisticated sport-loving contemporaries who have insisted that wrestling matches can be arranged without any suspicion of their being on the level. Maybe they can, but we are from Missouri. Professional wrestling is usually very crooked sport.

It would seem from a letter written by a Virginian in Texas to the Floyd Press that the Lone Star State is not the happy valley of fecundity and the cornucopia of prosperity that the Houston Post tries to make out it is. This correspondent says: "We are very dry here now. . . . The last shower of any consequence was in July. Our sweet potato crop was short, and we have had no fall gardens. No turnips and turnip salad. Water is getting very scarce. I wish I could be in old Floyd again." Quite so. A land without turnip salad and without water is not pleasant to dwell in. No wonder he says he wishes he were in old Floyd again. Better a bowl of turnip salad in Virginia than a mess of onions in Texas.

The latest Harvard Alumnus Directory contains the names of 32,192 men now believed to be living who claim Harvard as their alma mater. There are some very good men among them; but just think how much better they might have been if they had gone to Yale!

Next thing the reading public will learn is that Don Seitz, of the New York World, has written another book, and this time about the things that he has seen in this country. His little story about Princeton, printed in the World yesterday, had some very clever touches.

It is said that the President's message, which will be submitted to Congress next Tuesday, will contain from thirty to forty thousand words. If he would divide it by five he would again command the applause of the nation. The mistake nearly all the Presidents have made is in going too much into detail. The reports of the several executive departments might very well be covered in a single reference of three or four lines.

The Baltimore Sun brings the rather comforting intelligence from Waterbury, Connecticut, that Charlie Taft, the younger son of the President, was confirmed in Christ Church, Waterbury, last Sunday, the rite being administered by the Rt. Rev. Benjamin Brewster, Missionary Bishop of Colorado. Charlie is attending the school conducted by his Uncle Horace at Watertown. In making an Episcopalian of him a mighty good Presbyterian has been spoiled.

Champ Clark, the next Speaker of the House of Representatives, is said to be "the most thoroughly equipped Biblical student in the National Legislature. He rarely makes a speech which is not stuffed with quotations from the Scriptures." Mr. Clark is one of the strongest men in the Christian Church.

A Louisiana Judge has held that the kiss of a young widow is worth \$500. Wonder what the kiss of one of those red-headed widows in Houston is worth?

Royal

BAKING POWDER



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PRINCE MONTENUOVE TO WED ARCHDUCHESS

BY LA MARQUÉSE DE FONTENOY.

FROM Vienna comes the news of the engagement of Prince Ferdinand Montenuovo, only son and heir of the very wealthy prince of the same name who is grand master of the court of Austria, to Archduchess Marie Alice, the youngest daughter of Archduke Frederick and Archduchess Isabella of Austria. The union will be a remarkable one, owing to the fact that although the bridegroom has a strain of the imperial blood of Hapsburg in his veins, he is a mere noble, and does not belong to any of those mediatized or formerly petty sovereign houses of central Europe which are enumerated in Part II. of the Almanach de Gotha, and which retain among other of their former privileges, the right of mating with the members of the now reigning dynasties of Europe on a footing of equality.

Two of Archduke Frederick's daughters, namely, Marie Christine and Marie Henriette, are already wedded to mediatized princes, the elder to Prince Emmanuel Salm-Salm, and the other to Prince Godfrey of Hohenlohe. A third daughter is mated to Prince Elias de Bourbon, son and principal heir of the last sovereign Duke of Parma. Another archduchess, namely, Elizabeth, only child of the ill-fated Crown Prince Rudolf, is wedded to Prince Otto Wilschgratz, who is also a mediatized prince. But the only instance that I can recall of matrimonial alliances of Austrian archduchesses with members of what are known as the lower nobility, that is to say, not mediatized, is that of Archduchess Renata, daughter of the sailor Archduke Charles Stephen, to Prince Jerome Radziwill. It is undoubtedly the latter marriage which will furnish a precedent for that which is about to take place between Archduchess Marie Alice and Prince Ferdinand Montenuovo.

The latter's grandfather, that is to say, the late Prince William Montenuovo, and the first to bear that title, was the son of Empress Marie Louise of France and of her Austrian chamberlain, Count Adam Nelpperg, who was a member of the embassy there, as the late Emperor Francis II. was in his celebrated play "Madame Sans-Gene," as the lover of the consort of Napoleon. The Almanach de Gotha gives the date of the birth of Prince William as being subsequent to the marriage of his parents and to the death of Napoleon at St. Helena, and the various works recently published about the career of Marie Louise after her loss of the French throne, notably that by Max Muller, which is our best English work on the subject, of Wellington, insist that he was born during the lifetime of Napoleon, or at any rate before the news of his capture by the British had been received in Europe. This story is confirmed in a measure by the attitude of the Nelpperg family, who, belonging to one of the houses of the mediatized houses of Europe, raised objections to Count Adam Nelpperg's son, by Marie Louise, bearing their ancestor and illustrious name. If, however, Prince William was the son of a mediatized house, as an archduchess of Austria and a former Empress of France.

Prince Ferdinand, the boy's grandfather, got even with the Nelppergs in a rather amusing fashion; for he bestowed upon the child the title of Count Montenuovo, the word "Montenuovo" being the Italian rendering of the German word "Neuburg," or Nelpperg, besides endowing him with very extensive and valuable estates in Austria, in Italy, and especially in Hungary. Count William Nelpperg, who married Countess Julie Batthyany, was advanced by his kinsman, Emperor Francis Joseph, to the rank of prince, and his son, Prince Alfred, now the grand master of the court of Vienna, married to Countess Francis Kinsky, was further promoted to a serene highness.

Prince Alfred Montenuovo in his younger days presented the most striking resemblance to his grandmother, Empress Marie Louise, at her best, and was renowned for his good looks, which in a measure he still retains. Fortunately he has not inherited any of his grandfather's appearance; for Count Adam Nelpperg was not only one-eyed, but also remarkably ugly. Emperor Francis had, indeed, selected him on account of his homeliness, possibly in view of his daughter's susceptibility and hoping that the man was altogether too plain looking for her to fall in love with him. In this he was disappointed.

It is not generally known that Empress Marie Louise and Count Adam Nelpperg had two other children, one daughter, born on the 1st of May, 1817, that is to say, four years before the death of Napoleon. When she grew up she married an Italian, Count San Vitale, and died in 1897. There was also another daughter, born in January, 1823, who died in infancy. Archduchess Isabella, in thus marrying her youngest daughter to Prince Ferdinand Montenuovo, secures a firm ally in her son-in-law's father, that is to say, in Prince Alfred Montenuovo, who is perhaps the most powerful and influential personage at the court of Vienna and in society, always excepting, of course, the aged Emperor and the heir presumptive, Archduke Francis Ferdinand. New

Archduke Frederick and Archduchess Isabella are on very unfriendly terms with the future Emperor, the archduchess being particularly hostile to the heir presumptive's morganatic wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, who, as Countess Sophie Chotek, was formerly one of her ladies in waiting. Archduchess Isabella, who is of Belgian birth and a member of the mediatized ducal and princely house of Croix, had always hoped that Francis Ferdinand would wed one of her daughters, and relied upon Countess Sophie Chotek to foster an understanding between the two. Francis Ferdinand, however, preferred the lady in waiting and chaperon to the young archduchess, and Archduchess Isabella made no attempt to conceal her disappointment and her anger against the countess.

In spite of all the masterful authority of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, and notwithstanding the favor of the old Emperor, the position of Countess Chotek, now Duchess of Hohenberg, has been exceedingly difficult at the court and in society at Vienna. Archduchess Isabella, whose husband is immensely wealthy, having contributed in no small measure to the difficulties.

When Francis Ferdinand succeeds to the crown the war between the two women is bound to become still more acute, since his natural disposition will be to increase the rank, the precedence and the power of his morganatic consort, even if he does not raise her to the throne. The opposition of the great houses of the aristocracy who constitute the Austrian court and of the grand monde at Vienna, will be an important factor in the contest, and Prince Alfred Montenuovo, as the dignitary of the court who determines the right of admission thereto, will be acknowledged as the leader of the Vienna great world—he was for many years president of the Austrian Jockey Club and of the Vienna Club—will prove a very useful ally of the archduchess.

Everything connected with Sergius Sassonoff, the new Russian Minister in Foreign Affairs, must necessarily be of interest. Thus, in addition to what I have already written about him, I may add that he is a man of much more outspoken and decided views than his predecessor, M. Izvolski, who was so much a trimmer that in the end no one believed him, and he forfeited the confidence of all. In religious matters Sassonoff is ultra-orthodox, and despite his long residence in England, he is a member of the Russian Church. Any foreign appeals in their behalf will receive from him the scantiest attention. Nor is he particularly friendly towards the Roman Catholic Church, and when he was transferred to another post from that of envoy accredited to the court of the Vatican, he was given the relief in papal circles. I may add that he is too open and independent to be much of a courtier, since he is accustomed to speak out his mind and to give his opinion, irrespective of any consideration as to whether he may give offense or injure his position.

He is very rich indeed, hails from the province of Riasan, and belongs to an old family of the Russian titled aristocracy. His wife is a very charming woman, was Anna von Neldhardt, whose sister is married to Prime Minister Stolypin. As mentioned previously in these letters, people at St. Petersburg, and also in diplomatic circles in London, have always been disposed to give him more credit than to Izvolski for the successful negotiation of the entente cordiale, if not alliance, between England and Russia.

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